

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 031028Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8627

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 0184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, PK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - GOP AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

SUMMARY: PIA WILL EXTEND ITS PRESENT FAR EASTERN SERVICE FROM PEKING TO TOKYO STARTING FEB 15. A PAK CIVIL AVIATION DELEGATION RECENTLY VISITED NORTH KOREA TO OBTAIN OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS IN ORDER SHORTEN CIRCUITOUS ROUTE VIA SHANGHAI FOR SUCH SERVICE.
END SUMMARY.

1. A PAK CIVIL AVIATION DELEGATION LED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION M.R.A. RIZVI VISITED PYONGYANG FOR SEVERAL DAYS STARTING JAN 21, "FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AVIATION," ACCORDING TO BRIEF NOTICE IN KARACHI PRESS. FOLLOWING RETURN TO KARACHI OF DGCA RIZVI, CONGENOFF SPOKE WITH HIM ON FEB 3 CONCERNING OUTCOME NEGOTIATIONS. RIZVI CONFIRMED INFORMATION RECEIVED EARLIER BY CONSUL GENERAL FROM PIA SOURCES THAT MISSION
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VISITED PYONGYANG PRIMARILY TO OBTAIN OVERFLIRQT RIGHTS ON NEW

QEKING-TOKYO SECTOR WHICH PIA WILL ADD TO FAR EASTERN SERVICE
ON FEB 15, 1975.

2. RIZVI POINTED OUT SHORTEST GREAT CIRCLE ROUTE FROM PEKING TO
TOKYO PASSED OVER NORTH KOREA AND THAT SLIGHTLY LONGER ROUTE OVER
SOUTH KOREA TO TOKYO WAS IMPOSSIBLE UTILIZE OWING PEKING
OPPOSITION TO OVERFLIGHT SOUTH KOREA. HENCE PIA WILL BE FORCED
START TOKYO SERVICE FROM PEKING VIA SHANGHAI, WHICH ENTAILS
ALMOST TWO HOURS EXTRA FLYING TIME AT COST OF A MILLION DOLLARS
A YEAR IN FUEL COMPARED WITH DIRECT ROUTE OVER NORTH KOREA. RIZVI
HOPES SIGN BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA AFTER
CHECKING WITH JAPANESE AND CHINESE FOR THEIR INFORMAL APPROVAL
PROPOSED OVERFLIGHT.

3. RIZVI AND PIA SOURCES HAVE STATED THAT NORTH KOREANS, IN
RETURN FOR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO WHICH THEY HAVE PRELIMINARILY
AGREED, WANT PIA STOP AT PYONGYANG ON ONE OF PIA'S TWICE WEEKLY
FLIGHTS. ACCORDING RIZVI PIA NOT INTERESTED IN PYONGYANG STOP
FOR COMMERCIAL REASONS, SINCE THEY BELIEVE LITTLE REVENUE TRAFFIC
WILL DEVELOP FROM SUCH STOP, BUT ARE PREPARED MAKEHONE STOP PER
WEEK IN ORDER OBTAIN SHORTER ROUTE AND CONSEQUENT FUEL SAVINGS.
RIZVI ADDED PIA STOP AT PYONGYANG WOULD BE FIRST OF ANY FOREIGN
AIRLINE OUTSIDE AEROFLOT AND CAAC. HE RECALLED PIA ROLE IN
BRINGING CHINA INTO FURTHER CONTACT WITH WEST AFTER LONG PERIOD
OF ISOLATION AND OPINED THAT PIA STOP IN PYONGYANG COULD
CONTRIBUTE TO SAME PROCESS IN CASE OF NORTH KOREA.

4. COMMENT: WHILE RIZVI'S COMMENTS CONCERNING BENEFITS TO WEST
WHICH MAY ACCRUE FROM PIA STOP IN PYONGYANG ARE NO DOUBT
PARTIALLY RATIONALIZATION FOR ACTION WHICH COMMERCIALY
BENEFICIAL TO PAK NATIONAL CARRIER, HIS COMMENT CONCERNING
OPENING UP OF NORTH KOREA TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE MAY HOLD SOME
TRUTH. SINCERIZVI ASKED VERY INFORMALLY WHAT ATTITUDE OF US
WOULD BE TO SUCH STOP, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GENERAL COMMENTS
WHICH DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH OFFER FOR OUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION
HERE.
TIGER

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